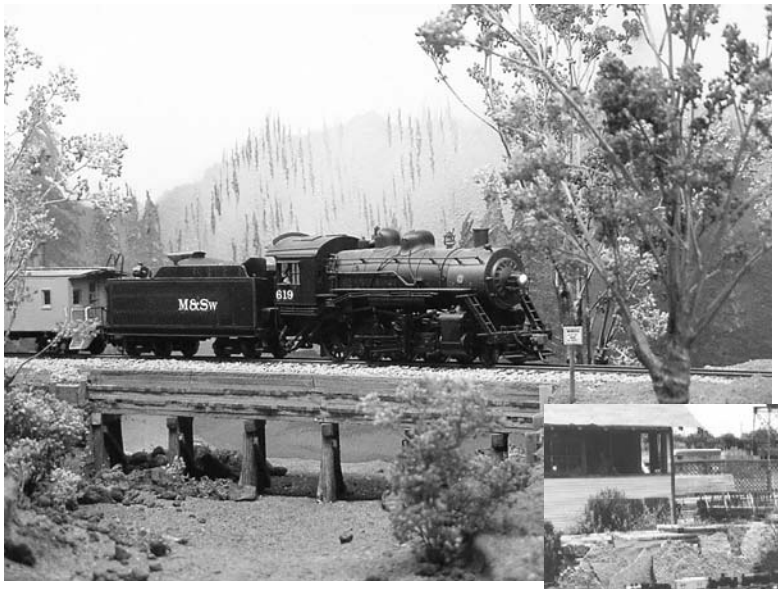
The Marker Lamp

Volume 56 **Number 2** **Spring 2010**



Two of the layouts for you to visit and operate in San Antonio

Alamo Rails
San Antonio

June 2-6, 2010

Mark you calendar to attend

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The Marker Lamp

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The Lone Star Region of The
National Model
Railroad Association

Volume 56, Number 2

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The editorial policy of **The Marker Lamp**, the official publication of **The Lone Star Region**, shall be to contribute, wherever possible, to the promotion, growth and understanding of the hobby of Model Railroading, within the confines of good taste and responsibility.

The Marker Lamp is published once each quarter by and for the members of **The Lone Star Region** of **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Articles appearing in **The Marker Lamp** are the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of the officers or membership of **The Lone Star Region** or **The National Model Railroad Association**.

Address all correspondence, news, photos and drawings to the editor. All material will be gladly accepted and will be used depending on the availability of space and suitability of material. None will be returned unless a stamped, self-addressed envelope is provided.

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President's Message

by Bill McPherson

Not so long ago only a few railroading events took place around the Lone Star Region. Now there are so many that it is difficult to find a free weekend to have another event. However, the LSR Annual Conventions are still one of the greatest. Why does this continue to be true? The simple answer is *the LSR conventions offer so much more.*

Alamo Rails LSR Convention will be the highlight of 2010.

There is no doubt about it. Just imagine enjoying **rides** on 7 ½" gauge trains pulled by live steam or diesel engines around the 18 acres "layout" of the Wimberley, Blanco & Southern R.R. How about **touring** the vast Union Pacific's San Antonio yard or a large rock quarry with lots of railroad movements? *These are opportunities that are almost never available to the general public.* The Friday night **picnic** at the Texas Transportation Museum will give you opportunities to climb on full-size railroad locomotives and cars plus . . . *food.*

The extensive variety of **Clinics** is one of the greatest features of the LSR conventions. Recently, Hands-On Clinics have become popular because you progress from the individual parts to a complete project during several extended sessions. For example, excellent modeler Al Boos will assist you to construct a model from a stack of boards to a complete building ready for placement on your layout.

Other **Alamo Rails** clinics will feature unique topics that you probably have not seen before. One of these is transforming photos into actual layout structures presented by Woodland Scenics' Miles Hale. In another clinic presented by publishing expert Stephen Priest (*Scales Rails* and many Santa Fe books) you will learn from his "trained eye of the camera" vantage point to see what the camera sees and thus produce more realistic photographs, possibly for publication.

For the **Non-Rails**, there will be an expanded **San Antonio River Ride and Lunch**, Central Market Cooking Class, Ladder Lace Ribbon Jewelry, and Ribbon Christmas Tree. The Non-Rails Contests always feature a wide variety of excellent entries.

Important other features of our LSR conventions are the **Contests** for all aspects of model railroading which are judged by well-qualified judges; the **Silent Auction; Operating Sessions;** many excellent home and club **Layouts on Tour,** and a grand **Banquet**. Check the **Alamo Rails** website for details on all of the interesting activities.

It is most gratifying to report about the great increase in membership for the Lone Star Region during the past few months. The local train shows in our areas are wonderful opportunities to meet people interested in trains and let them know how many benefits they can gain by becoming a NMRA member. It seems that many people just want someone or some group to connect to. They genuinely appreciate someone giving them a telephone call or an email following up on the initial contact to thank them for coming and to establish that "we care about you" feeling. The LSR's membership team of Larry Swigert and Mike Jobe are making personal telephone calls and mailings to new members or reminding those who might have forgotten to renew their memberships. Most importantly, the local LSR members in the new member's home town can do so much more to personalize a follow-up to the regional contact.

For our important Youth Program, the intensive work by Tom Browning and Dr. Bob Mangram, his new assistant, and by various LSR directors has been very successful. A great group of 6 railroad-inspired young folks have already been nominated. We are looking forward to presenting them to you at the **Alamo Rails Convention.**

You just gotta go to the **Alamo Rails LSR Convention !!!**

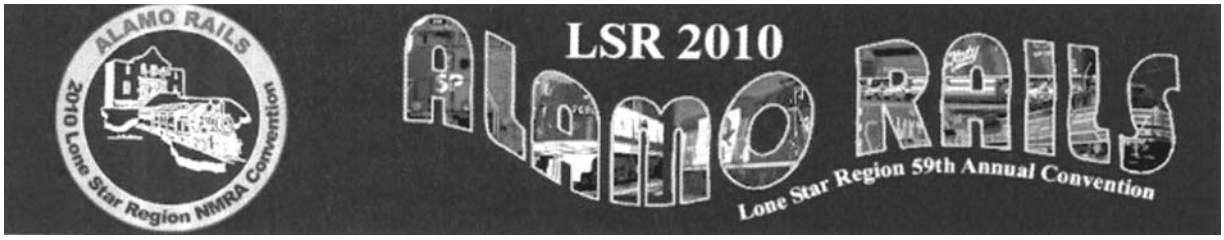
View from the Spar Pole

By Chuck Lind, MMR

I have spent some time working at the Southern Forest Heritage Museum in Louisiana. After sitting vacant for many years it was decided to restore the old post office. The outside work as well as the cleaning and painting were done by the local Police Jury (prisoners) and they did an excellent job. I decided to work on restoring the insides and installing the original post office boxes, which were found many years ago, as well as some of the other details needed to complete the front counter. But this has not been a one man show, Tracy Mitchell and Ray Byer, worked to restore the old shipping clerk's office based on an old photo we had of R.D. Crowell working in the office. One of the Highlights of Heritage Day will be the blowing of the old mill whistle at Noon. This is a very large steam whistle about 2 foot tall and 10 inches in diameter that we found in the archives. Ray took the challenge and has the whistle mounted and ready to go, I even heard him give a blast on the whistle when he called me while I was driving back from Pennsylvania, quite a sound to hear.

Why was I in Pennsylvania? I had a conference in North Carolina and had wanted to visit the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum to see what they have and learn how they tell their story to see if we could use some of the ideas at Long Leaf. We left the conference and visited a winery in North Carolina and headed north. When we looked at the map we decided to take a short cut to the museum, good idea/bad idea. The drive was beautiful as spring was taking over from winter. But the road must have been an old logging road, I don't believe it went straight for more than a hundred yards and if it wasn't a curve it was up or down the mountain.

The museum was worth the drive. While their museum wasn't a complete mill complex like Long Leaf, rather a collection of several mills brought to one site. They have a working steam powered sawmill, complete with log pond, that has been restored into working condition and they operate and cut lumber twice a years for special events. Their mill is small with a large husk saw, edger and cut off saw. The material they cut is dried and used for some of the projects and buildings they have built at the museum. They also have built a recreation of a logging camp for the early 1900's, as well as a restored Barnhart log loader and a 1912 shay. I spent quite some time talking with the staff and exchanging ideas, so hopefully this will help both museums in the future.



San Antonio. Convention. Friends and Trains.

Yes, it is almost that time again. June is almost here and so is the convention. For those that have visited San Antonio in the past, you already know how comfortable and friendly and just plain great this city is. When we lived in Houston during my M-K-T days, we always looked forward to our trips to San Antonio and the Hill country area. Now that we have been here for quite a few years, there is this thing about this city and conventions. You not only want to come to a great convention but also a location that has the sights and sounds that would make it a great destination no matter what. We have all been to cities that both the destination and convention was a perfect match. Well, this is one that I know is a perfect match.

Friends. Conventions are where we come to meet old friends and make new ones in a city that has so much to offer. There will be the breakfasts, lunches, dinners, tours and running around to clinics, Ops sessions, etc, etc, etc. We have all been there and done that. And yet the most enjoyable aspect is the folks you meet and learn from, sharing the hobby of model railroading. It can be a clinic, operating session, tour or even a trip down the river. They all are going to take you to new places where you will meet and be with old and new friends. Conventions, the only place you can do this.

So where are we now? The clinics are in place and we have some great clinics. I do want to point out the Hands On for a minute as we have some interesting ones. For example, "Soldering" and the "Hands on DCC decoder installation". So you say you know it all and you can solder and can put a decoder in. Great. Come anyway to the clinic. You would be surprised how many things people know and yet always learn a trick or two, especially on decoder installation. This is especially true of decals. Again, we know it all, but Al Boos can still show you a trick or two. And speaking of Al Boos, he has a Hands On Board by Board clinic of a Track Side Office. I and the folks here in San Antonio consider us fortunate in having some great MMR here in town and sitting through a clinic that Al gives, at a club presentation, a show or convention, is worth the price of admission. You will always learn something. Trust me. You cannot go wrong on this one.

Want more clinics? Check the web site but here are a few for your consideration. Anyone that gets Scale Rails knows the work of both our Banquet Guest speaker and Clinician, Stephen Priest. He is giving a great clinic on "Photography For Publication". Yes sir, you can hear and see from one who knows the business and learn how you can get those great model photos of yours published (PS, he has another clinic, so look it up on the web). Next, Clinician Hugh Hemphill has not only researched the railroads of San Antonio and the surrounding area, but also written a book about his research. What is great about talking to him is the stuff that did not get into the book. He has some great stories and you do not want to miss it. And the list goes on. Bill Eubank with Styrene Basics, Clutter with Chuck Lind, Steve Amitrano and his "Painting and Weathering Locomotives" (you have seen his work in Great Model Railroads) and a lot more. The web site has a list of all of them and continues to grow.

OK now. Trains. We have the BIG Texas Transportation Museum get together on Friday night. All covered with your registration. Good food, Garden Railroad Trains, Model Railroad Trains, and Trains to ride in. Speaking of trains, how about live steam trains? If you are not going to the Wimberly Blanco and Southern, you will regret it later. We have photos, a description of how LARGE this railroad is and layout map of the fantastic railroad on the web. There is nothing like hearing a steam engine work up a grade to get your blood moving. Bring the video camera. Do not have one? You have time to go get one. Do It! More Trains? Yes! We have tours to the Union Pacific Rail yard here in San Antonio by the old Kelly and Lackland Air Force bases. Some of you Air Force folks might be familiar with the location. And no, the Remote Control units do not have drop in decoders! The video camera comes in quite handy on this trip. And for a combination of Trains and Industries, we have the Hanson Quarry tour. An industry you can model and a rare opportunity to go into an active quarry that is rail served and was served previously by both the Missouri Pacific and the M-K-T railroads.

More rail served and modern industries? The second half of the Union Pacific tour is the new Intermodal Facility south of the rail yard. Stack trains and a very big lot and the latest in gate processing of intermodal equipment. See the web for more information.

Well, I am getting tired of all of this fun, and yet I do want to mention the Layout and operating session part of this convention. We have quite a few layouts that will be open for the conventioneers to visit and enjoy. For the operating inclined, we have some great home layouts and two Club layouts. SAMRA's layout is HO scale and it has been featured in the Cow Catcher. The little known one is the SANTRAK N scale layout. For those who are diehards when it comes to operations, they have a set up for you. The final plan is for a layout that is over 70 modules and will be over 18 N scale miles of run. Yes, you read it correctly. The run is 18 N scale miles of MAINLINE with another 10 plus miles of yard and siding tracks. Seven operators will operate on this on railway system. WOW!

FOOD. Yes, the breakfast banquet and general membership meeting, the Dinner extravaganza, The TTM BBQ and the Central Market Cooking class. if you go hungry, well, do not blame it on us. And the non- rail tours and clinic also. Again, lots to do.

South Texas Division 6 and the San Antonio Model Railroad Association
Present

Alamo Rails 2010
Lone Star Region Convention
June 2-6 2010
Early Registration Ends April 17, 2010

www.alamorails.com www.samratx.org

Name: _____

Address:_____

City: _____ State:_____ Zip:_____

Email:_____ Telephone: _____

NMRA #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name Desired on Badge (print please):_____

Spouse/Other attendees:_____

Hotel Reservations	The Convention Rate is $90 per night Single or
Holiday Inn	Double occupancy. This rate is good thru May 17.
77 N. E. Loop 410	Make your reservations **directly** with the
San Antonio, Tx 78216	Holiday Inn and Mention NMRA/LSR
9900-9900-9900	Convention. (No Email for Res. Available)

Note: The Convention Rate is good for 3 days before and after the Convention if made by May 17, 2010

Regular Registration Includes

- Admission to Friday Night Texas Transportation Museum with dinner Included
- Admission to clinics including many by Master Model Railroaders
- Access to the Contest Room to view and photograph some of the best model building in the Lone Star Region
- Access to the silent auction and the chance to bid on many railroad items
- Admission to the Saturday Night banquet featuring Guest Speaker Steven Priest, Editor of *Scale Rails*
- Admission to the Sunday morning breakfast and annual Lone Star Region business meeting
- Select Extra Fare prototype tours, Make and Take Clinics and operating sessions
- Admission to area home layouts and the SAMRA Museum Railroad
- Rail fanning opportunities
- For more information contact: Donald Scott Email: Katydon@satx.rr.com

Alamo Rails 2010

Lone Star Region Convention

June 2-6 2010

Early Registration Ends April 17, 2010

Alamo Rails Convention Fee Schedule

June 2-6, 2010

REGULAR REGISTRATION	COST		QTY	TOTAL
Postmarked on or before April 17, 2010	$89	X		$
Postmarked after April 17, 2010	$99	X		$
SPOUSE REGISTRATION				
Postmarked on or before April 17, 2010	$89	X		$
Postmarked after April 17, 2010	$99	X		$
OTHER FAMILY REGISTRATION				
Minors (6-16 includes Friday TTM meal & Banquet)	$45	X		$
Minors under 6 free (Includes TTM Visit, no Meals)				
OPTIONS				
Day Pass (does not include Banquet or Breakfast)	$30	X		$
Saturday Night Banquet Only	$38	X		$
Sunday Morning Breakfast Only	$22	X		$
EXTRA FARE				
Prototype Tour #1 Wimberley (Thurs. via Bus/With Lunch) **Limit 50**	$55	X		$
(Wimberly, Blanco & Sou. Live Steam All Day Tour)				
Prototype Tour #2 Hanson Quarry /Ft Sam (Thurs. via Bus) **Limit 50**	$25	X		$
Prototype Tour #3 UP Yards (Fri. via Bus) **Limit 50**	$25	X		$
Convention Promotion Car HO (SA&N) before April 17, 2010	$18	X		$
Convention Promotion Car HO (SA&N) after April 17, 2010	$20	X		$
Convention Sport Shirt/W Pocket: S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	$28	X		$
Convention Dress Shirt Short Sleeve: S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	$32	X		$
Convention Dress Shirt Long Sleeve: S M L XL 2XL* 3XL*	$32	X		$
Convention Decals (Al Boos' Cibolo Creek Western) HO Scale Only	$5	X		$
Soldering Clinic (Make & Take) **Limit 25**	$25	X		$
HO Track Side Office (Make & Take) **Limit 25**	$30	X		$
Make & Take Decal Clinic (Car & HO CCW Decals Provided) **Limit 32**	$18	X		$
NON RAIL EXTRA FARE				
Central Market Cooking Class & Lunch (Pvt.Van Transport) Thur.	$25	X		$
San Antonio River Boat Ride & Lunch (Pvt. Van Transport) Fri.	$35	X		$
Ladder Lace Necklass & Earrings (Make & Take) **Limit 25**	$5	X		$
Ribbon Christmas Tree Clinic (Make & Take) **Limit 25**	$12	X		$
OPERATIONS **$10 Deposit Returned at Session**				
Wed. & Thurs. **[Limited]** Sign up on WWW.alamorails.com	$10	X		$
MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS, ETC.				
NMRA Registration for non-NMRA members	$58	X		$
NMRA Rail Pass -- 6 Month Membership FOR Non NMRA members	$9.95	X		$
Facility Usage if not staying at the hotel or home (see below)	$25	X		$
Make checks payable to: **Lone Star Region**			Total	$

*Add $2 for 2X Sizes and $4 for 3X Sizes

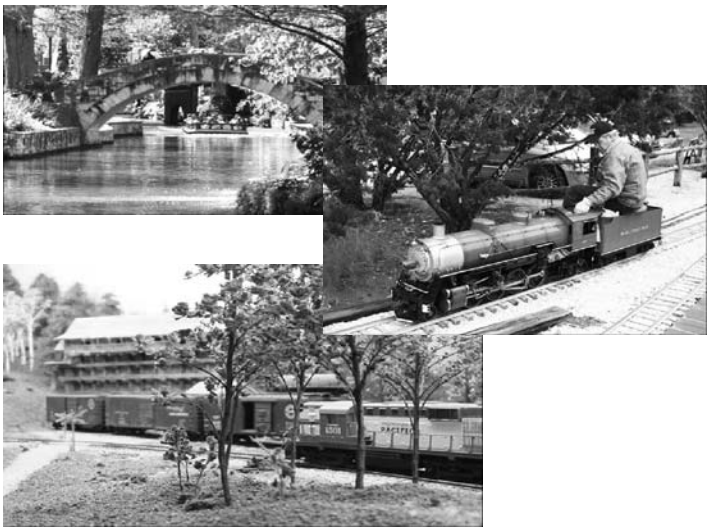
Note: The $25 facilities Usage Charge (primary registration only) applies to those who do not stay at their own home or at the convention hotel. The cost of the hotel's meeting rooms, banquet, and other facilities is offset by the attendees (locals as well as out-of-towners) purchasing the guaranteed number of hotel room nights. If this guaranteed number is not met, the use of the facilities would greatly increase the cost of the convention. Since every attendee benefits from the facilities, we are encouraging everyone to stay at the convention hotel.

Mail completed registration form with payment to:

Donald Scott, Registrar
22016 Senna Hills Dr.
Garden Ridge, Tx 78266
210-651-7540 katydon@satx.rr.com

Contest, Silent auction, company store and raffle items. And all in just a few days. It is a lot of stuff to see and do so come rested and ready to go. And bring the Video Camera!

To be sure, it is time to remember that this is the LSR convention and it is an opportunity for YOU, the members of the NMRA/LSR, to come and participate in YOUR convention. All we are doing is putting it on so that you can learn new things, exaggerate old memories, share new ones and just have plain fun riding and playing with trains, both big and small.
Thanks and we will be seeing you!
ps. Don't forget the web site. Alamorails.org



Company Store

	HO	N-Scale
Casey Lines	OUT	2 avail.
Texas & African	20 avail.	OUT
Waco Austin & Bryan	OUT	119 avail.
Anniversary Car Set	OUT	2 sets avail.
ITC - Bob Clarke	7 avail.	66 sets avail.

Cars are $2.00 each. 2 car sets are $4.00.

Check your layout and be sure you have one of each *special run* Region car. If not we can take care of the shortage post haste.

Other items available

Cloth Region Patches	$5.00 each
Auto/Window Region Decal	$ .50
N Scale Nevadun Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Daw Cha Southern Decals	$2.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Downe and Owlte	$4.00 per sheet
HO&N Scale Cape Able and Port Entous	$4.00 per sheet

Shipping
Please add $5.00 for up to 3 cars and add $1.00 for patches and decals

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972-358-6168
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LSR Youth Membership Program

By Tom Browning, LSR Youth Chair

This has been a very good recruiting year (2009/2010) for the Lone Star Region's Youth Membership Program. Six youths were nominated and the LSR Board of Directors (BOD) approved them all by email. At the BOD meeting to be held immediately after the 2010 Alamo Rails Convention the BOD will ratify this email approval.

The six youths approved are:
Division 1, Director **Chris Atkins** –
Tripper Stiles of Haltom City, TX
Division 3, Director **Jerry Hoverson** –
Austin Jones of Dallas, TX
Division 5, Director **Dave Lamberts** –
Cole Adams of Lubbock, TX
Division 6, Director **Fred Bock** –
Alan Serold of San Antonio, TX
Division 8, Director **Ray Byer** –
Robbie Price of Rosharon, TX
Officers & Directors-At-Large –
Alex Graf of Austin, TX

The Youth Membership Program would not be the success it is without the hard work of the Division Directors. My hat is off to each one you gentlemen.

The first few years during my participation in the Youth Membership Program everything was new and fresh. In order to keep this Program new and fresh I have asked **Mr. Bob Mangrum** of Early, Texas to join me and be as committee member. I have known Bob for several years and I have every confidence that he will be great addition to the youth effort of the Lone Star Region.

Who says 75-year olds forget names?
Jack Burgess, Bruce Chubb, Bill Darnaby, Chuck Hitchcock, Tony Koester, Sam Swanson, Bill Schaumburg, Andy Sperandeo, Tony Thompson, Wayne Wesolowski. Names we'll never forget presenting clinics you'll never forget. All at one unforgettable convention. Learn more at ...
1935-2010
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YEARS
www.nmra75.org

Up The Track

By Bill Dryden

Here is the list of the upcoming events within the LSR of which I am aware. I will provide all the information YOU send me or I can glean from other publications, websites, etc., for these events. Additional information may be available through the NMRA *Scale Rails* and/or various trade magazines or various websites. Please forward any and all information about upcoming events or activities in your area, club, etc., to me via email at bdr149@airmail.net. Also, note that all show times and dates are at the discretion of the sponsoring organization and are subject to change.

LSR Convention: Lone Star Region 59th Annual Convention (2010) San Antonio, TX The Lone Star Region NMRA 59th Annual Convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Select by the San Antonio Airport. Check the LSR website. Come all!! **PARTICIPATE!!!**

Recurring events and meetings:

LSR Division 3 - Northeast Texas Division
Garland
Monthly Meeting Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin St., Garland, TX Third Saturday of each month. For more information contact Jerry Hoverson, MMR jhoverson@tx.rr.com or the Division 3 Page on the LSR website.

Alamo Model Railroad Engineers Meeting
San Antonio
The Alamo Model Railroad Engineers meet the 2nd Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Zucht Building at the Texas Transportation Museum, 11791 Wetmore Rd., San Antonio TX. For more information call Peter Shavney (210) 317-3661 or Gene Turner (210) 355-2777, or visit the web site www.alamomodelrailroadengineers.com.

Houston Area Live Steamers
Hockley ,TX
Over 9,000 feet of track for you to enjoy and ride. Someone is usually there every Saturday with special run, operations, waybills/timetable, work and fun run days scheduled throughout the year. Our public run days are the third Saturday of the month March through November. Come see our 2,500 foot expansion in Phase 4. Model Railroaders (any scale) are welcome to attend most any time. Check our web site out at www.hals.org for schedule of events or e-mail Peter Bryan at peterb@pdq.net for more information.

Events and Shows:

May
7th – 9th Annual Train Days of Kingsville, Festivities begin at 7:00 p.m., Kingsville Depot Museum, 104 W. Kleberg Ave., Kingsville, TX. For more information Kingsville Convention and Visitors Bureau (800) 333-5032.

9th Texas & Pacific Employees' Reunion and National Train Day Celebration, 10:00 a.m., Texas & Pacific Depot and Museum, 800 N. Washington, Marshall, TX. For More Information, call: (903) 938-9495.

June
2nd – 6th Alamo Rails - The Lone Star Region NMRA 59th Annual Convention, Holiday Inn Select by the San Antonio Airport, San Antonio, TX. (Other details above and *EVERYWHERE* in this issue).

July
11th - 18th 75th Anniversary Convention, National Model Railroad Association, Milwaukee, WI. For more information www.nmra75.org and see information in *Scale Rails*.

31st – Aug 1st 8th Summer Family Train Show, Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., $6.00 per person, Children under 16 free when accompanied by a paying adult (Limit 3 children per paying adult), Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, TX. For more information E-mail: trainshow@samratx.org.

October
2nd – 3rd Alamo Model Railroad Engineers 22nd Annual Train Show, Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Adults $7 or Family $10, Live Oak Civic Center, 8101 Pat Booker Road, Live Oak, TX. Table sale and show information: http://www.txtransportationmuseum.org/AMRE.htm; or call the Texas Transportation Museum at (210)490-3554.

9th – 10th 28th Annual Train Show, Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 11:00 am. to 4:00 p.m., Adults $7, Children 10 and Under Free w/ Adult ticket, Lockheed/Martin Recreational Area, 3400 Bryant Irvin Road, Ft. Worth, TX. Contact: www.lmra.org/Activity

30th – 31st NTC 26th Annual Fort Worth Area Train Show, Sat. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 AM to 4:00 p.m., Adults $7, Children under 12 Free, Amon G. Carter Exhibits Building, Will Rogers Memorial Center, #1 Amon Carter Square, Fort Worth, TX. For more information: www.dfwtrainshows.com or chris@railroadmodelers.com for dealer information: chris@railroadmodelers.com.

Future Events (More Information to follow as available)

January 2009
15th – 16th **NTC 26th Annual Dallas Area Train Show**, Plano Center, Plano, TX.

Mastering Modeling - Urban Archeology in Colorado…Silver Plume

By Tracy Mitchell, MMR

In this installment I am going to talk about the town of Silver Plume, Colorado. Silver Plum is founded on Clear Creek mining area, a strong mining area. In fact, the creek runs right through the middle of town. Several dwellings are even built over the creek itself, making unusual modeling ideas

Silver Plume was known as a miners' town. Very few wealthy mine owners lived in Silver Plume. Most of the Silver lodes were discovered in the mid to late 1860's, with the largest concentrations found on Republican mountain and Brown mountain North of town.

The town was founded in 1870. A distinct commercial district grew up along Main Street. Fraternal organizations were active in the area and many built lodges in the town. The town itself peaked at 2000 people, mostly of Cornish-Irish English and Italian descent.

Silver Plume had nine saloons and two churches. It also had numerous grocery stores, drug stores, clothing stores, shoes stores, and even a jeweler. Silver Plume future was looking really promising until a fire broke out in November

of 1884. The fire started in a saloon and when all was said and done, both sides of Main Street were completely destroyed. The town was rebuilt and was almost back to where it was before the fire when the silver panic of 1893 hit. This did the town in.

Like most towns in Colorado, Silver Plume was saved by tourism. The Georgetown Loop RR is located there and this draws many visitors to the area.

As far as architecture goes, there are numerous false front stores, miners cabins, and other structures, both inhabited and uninhabited to explore. The best way to explore the town is to park your vehicle on a side street and just get out and walk the town. With Interstate 70 on one side and the mountains on the other, you can literally walk the town in half a day. What I usually do is park there in the morning, explore the town and then wind up eating at one of the local establishments.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

by Tom Browning

Beginning Balance 11/01/2009		
LSR Checking Account		$1,772.31
Vanguard CD Fund		$36,806.12
Acct Receivable Due 2010 Convention		$2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		**$40,578.43**
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1 $1,815.48		
Funds Held For Division 3 $305.68		
LSR Proceeds		
Vanguard CD Fund Interest	$8.27	
Vanguard Convention Fund Interest	$3.16	
Pike Ads	$112.00	
Total Proceeds		**$123.43**
LSR Disbursements		
Marker Lamp Printing and Mailing	$1,165.66	
Achievement Program Postage & Copies	$18.22	
Youth Membership Program	$84.00	
Total Disbursements		**$1,498.33**
Net Proceeds/ Disbursements		**- $1,374.90**
Ending Balance 01/31/2010		
LSR Checking Accounts Total		$397.41
Vanguard Money Market Accts Total		$36,806.12
Acct Receivable Due 2010 Convention		$2,000.00
Total LSR Net Worth		$39,203.53
Not included in Total LSR Net Worth		
Funds Held For Division 1 $3,081.08		
Funds Held For Division 3 $1,571.29		

At the end of December 2009 our membership was 969 and at the end of March 2010 membership was 985. Please welcome our new members listed below. When you run into them, say hello, and invite them to attend your model railroading activities.

Lehnis Heart Of Texas Model Railroad Club, Brownwood, TX - 01
John Garfield, Burleson, TX – 01
August Riccono, Ft Worth, TX – 01
Buie Family, North Richland Hills, TX 01
L. C. Casinger, Lewisville, TX – 01
Bill Kendall, Cisco, TX – 01
Robert Eaton, Paradis, LA – 02
Thomas Naquin, Gretna, LA – 02
Leo Persick, Baton Rouge, LA – 02
Charles Roaten, Oakdale, LA – 02
George Theile, Prairieville, LA – 02
Jackson Stocks, Forney, TX – 03
William Meines, Plano, TX – 03
Austin Jones, Dallas, TX – 03
Daniel Castillo, College Station, TX – 04
Alex Graf, Austin, TX – 04
Andrew Thompson, TX – 04
BJ Dorsey, Lubbock, TX – 05
Samuel Shrum, Universal City, TX – 06
Pam Spencer, Sequin, TX – 06
David Spencer, Sequin, TX – 06
Steves Family, San Antonio, TX – 06
Allan Levy, San Antonio, TX – 06
Lyndon Woodall, San Antonio, TX – 06
Jefferson & Cypress Bayou Model Railroad Club, Jefferson, TX – 07
Forrest Horn, Cushing, TX – 07
Richard Bartlett, Houston, TX – 08
James Hinkhouse, Montgomery, TX – 08
Charles Mikeska, Sargent, TX – 08
James Ott, Houston, TX – 08
August Peters, Montgomery, TX – 08
John Roveda, Houston, TX – 08
David Suffel, Pearland, TX – 08
David Conway, Seabrook, TX – 08
George Hyde, Porter, TX – 08
Larry Liska, Pearland, TX – 08
Gary Strouz, Rosharon, TX - 08

The Contest Corner – How to put together a good write-up.

By Duane Richardson, MMR

While I know that the contest isn't for everybody I would like to take a minute of your time to make a pitch for the contest and the Achievement Program. Why? Because it **WILL** make you a better modeler. I guarantee it. If you put in the effort to build a model to qualify you will find yourself reaching out to learn new techniques. Suddenly "That will do" isn't good enough and you will find that your models look better…and so will your friends.

Perhaps the most common complaint I hear about the Model Contest and the Achievement Program has to do with the paperwork. "It's a model contest, not a writing contest". While this is very true, a good write-up is necessary to help explain what you have attempted to achieve. It doesn't have to be *War & Peace* but just enough to inform the judges about your model and what you have built.

As many of you may know, I am a narrow gauge modeler. If you were to bring me a D&RGW 3000 series box car I could judge the model with very little paperwork because I know the prototype. Now, if you were to bring me a Santa Fe box car I don't have the working knowledge of the prototype so I will have to rely on the modeler's write-up and Conformity documentation. All of that to say this; there isn't a judge in the world with enough knowledge of every railroad to be able to judge a model competently without a write-up. Again, we aren't looking for a novel.

First, I would suggest you go to the internet and download a copy of the Judging Guidelines from the NMRA's website. This is the judges' list of what to and what NOT to look for in each of the categories being scored. The PDF file can be found here: http://www.nmra.org/education/achievement/pdf/2006-judging-guide-lines.pdf

So what should a good write-up consist of? All you need to do is to take each category as described in the judging guidelines and write a paragraph or two telling the judges about the things they are supposed to look for. Label each area so it's easy for that judging team to find it in your paperwork. Photos are helpful but not completely necessary in all cases.

Below, based off the judging guidelines, we will take each category and I'll mention a few things you might want to plan to include.

Construction

- Hours of labor.
- What kinds of materials were used.
- How was it constructed (any fabrication, Kitbashing, altered purchased or kit parts, Masters made for castings, photo-etched parts…).
- For open loads (explain how the load is secured: bolted, nailed, wedged, banded, chained, braced…).
- Complexity of construction (Explain why this was hard and where it was hard).

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Detail

- List all the detail parts involved.
- How hard was it to do.
- Quantity of detail.
- Board by board construction? (while this is a Construction feature I like to point this out in Detail as well since you went to the trouble).
- Bolt heads, nail heads & door knobs.
- Placement of colors and lettering (while really under finish and lettering this is also a detail).

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Conformity

- Prototype appearance (include plans and or photographs).
- Research involved.
- Was selective compression used or not?
- Accuracy of lettering (Is the lettering placed as the prototype or prototypically placed for freelanced models (again, plans and or photographs to support your work).

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Finish and Lettering

- Multi-colored and/or stripes. (These are harder to do so point that out).
- How the finish was applied.
- Decals (mention if they were home made and if the correct fonts were used).
- Talk about the weathering and how it was done. If there is no weathering point that out as well. You can not be docked points for a non-weathered model.

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Scratchbuilding

- Show any plans that you've drawn.
- Show jigs made to build the model.
- Show masters and molds (if possible) that you made for the model.
- Talk about anything and everything you had to make.
- List the quantity of parts that were scratchbuilt (Quality is judged under Construction.) Also list any exempt parts that were used and it's a good idea to point out that they are exempt (just in case).

Don't assume the judges will know. Write it down.

Again, you don't need anything flashy. Just break it down for each section and state what you have done. Take the feedback and build on that for the next model.

Model Contest Rules Lone Star Region
Of the National Model Railroad Association
As addoptde by the Board January 2010

A. General Contest Rules

1. Any member of the NMRA, in good standing, is eligible to compete except Manufacturers and Professional Model Builders. Any commercially built (built by a Professional Model Builder) model is not eligible to be entered.
a. Manufacturer – Derives the majority (51% or more) of his income from producing detail parts, gearing, drives or kits for the Model Railroad consumers.
b. Professional Model Builder – Any member who derives the majority (51% or more) of his or her income from model building.

2. Each entry must be accompanied by the official LSR (Board approved) entry form signed by the entrant along with the LSR (preferred) or NMRA Contest Judging form. Each entry by proxy must be authenticated by the owner/ builder with a valid NMRA membership number.

3. Supplementary material such as photos, drawings, etc. as well as extensive descriptions may accompany the entry; however, judges are not obligated to consider it. The Region Contest Chairman may limit supplementary material due to space constraints.

4. There will be no restrictions on the number of models (doesn't include photos, see photo rules) entered by a single entrant, nor shall any entry fee be charged.

5. Unmodified, ready-to-run models are ineligible for the model contest.

6. Models will be displayed to permit the maximum inspection (based on space available), with the minimum amount of handling necessary by the judges.

7. Models that have won First (1st) place with a merit score (87.5) or higher at previous Regional or National NMRA contests are ineligible.

8. Entry of a model requiring more than ten (10) square feet and/or weighing more than one hundred (100) pounds will be at the discretion of the Host Convention Chairman and Region Contest Chairman, based on available space. Please check with the Region Contest Chairman before bringing the model.

9. All scales will be combined in the various categories. There will be no division of category based on the scale or gauge of the model, nor kit vs scratchbuilt, nor the level of ability of a modeler.

10. Reasonable care and protection will be provided for entries by the Host Contest Committee, the LSR Contest Chairman and the Judges.

11. Neither the Lone Star Region nor the Host Convention Committee can assume any responsibility in the event of loss or damage to a model beyond the insurance carried by the NMRA and then no more than the dollar value that is shown on the LSR Entry form.

12. Judges for the model contest will be selected by the Region Contest Chair, with the help of the Host Convention Chairman if necessary.

13. The proposed contest schedule, including entry and cutoff times, judging and viewing times, will be determined by the Host Convention Committee working in conjunction with the Region Contest Chairman. This schedule will be published on the Convention Website, the Convention Timetable, *The Marker Lamp*, and posted in the Contest Room. Any changes to this schedule will be published on the Convention Website, the Convention Timetable, *The Marker Lamp*, and/or posted in the Contest Room.

14. The contest room will remain closed to viewing during judging. The room will be open for viewing during normal convention hours except when closed for judging, unless otherwise posted.

15. Once the model and any supporting material have been placed on the table by the modeler it must be left on the table for viewing. No models are to be picked up and handled (even by the owner) in the contest room without permission of the Region Contest Chairman.

16. If a model is broken after it has been entered, the model owner may request permission from the Region Contest Chairman to discreetly remove the model from the room for repair. For no other reason should a model leave the room. A model that has been entered in the contest shall NOT be allowed to be removed from the contest room to be used in clinic or other presentation at the same convention. Similarly, a model may NOT be entered in the contest after being used in a presentation at the same convention. Model builders are assumed to be anonymous; publicly displaying the model and claiming it as your work violates this process.

17. The claim check from the entry form must be presented to remove the model from the contest room. Once a model is removed from the contest room, it will not be allowed to be re-entered in the contest unless it was removed for repairs.

18. For the protection of the models, no bags, purses, camera bags, or drinks will be allowed in the model display area. You are welcome to take photos for your personal use.

19. Although discussion of entries and modeling techniques is welcomed and encouraged, blatant politicking for or against any particular model, whether it is yours or someone else's, is not acceptable. Those who persist in doing this will be asked to leave the contest room.

B. Categories

1. **Steam Locomotive** – Types of locomotives that are representative of steam power.

2. **Diesel Locomotive** – Types of locomotives that are representative of diesel power.

3. **Traction and Other** – Electrically powered and other types of motive power that do not fit into the Steam or Diesel categories regardless of ability to haul freight or passengers.

Per Section E-1 of the NMRA Contest Rules – Additional Regulations, models entered in Steam Locomotives, Diesel Locomotives and Traction and Other MUST be powered and capable of self-propelled operation. In the case of multiple hookups such as A&B diesels, at least one of the models must be powered and capable of self-propelled operation.

4. **Passenger Cars** – All types of passenger revenue carrying equipment, including rail diesel cars, rail buses, observation, mail and baggage cars and express reefers.

In some cases, powered passenger equipment may also be entered in a motive power category.

5. **Freight Cars** – All types of freight revenue carrying equipment.

The load will not be included in the judging of a freight car. If the load, or combined load and car, is to be judged it should be entered in one of the Structures or Displays categories.

6. **Cabooses** – All types of caboose and cabin cars including bobbers, drovers, transfers, etc.

7. **Maintenance of Way** – Non-revenue, right-of-way and track maintenance vehicles, rail and inspection cars, railroad cranes, snow removal and other cars not considered to be directly involved in railroad revenue service.

In some cases, powered MOW equipment may also be entered in a motive power category.

8. **Structures On Line** – All structures normally owned by the railroad such as stations, yard buildings, etc.; also all buildings having rail loading/unloading facilities.
9. **Structures Off Line** – All structures not considered to be On Line.
10. **Bridges & Trestles** – All bridges or trestles used by the railroad for train movement. Highway/vehicle bridges and overpasses are accepted as well.

An entry in any of the Structures or Bridges categories with scenery detail such as ground cover (grass, weeds, dirt), barrels, pallets, figures, etc. outside the confines of the exterior structure walls (unless attached to the building, e.g. loading docks, planters, etc.), including under the eaves, will be considered a Display.
Dirt floors or other scenic elements within the confines of the exterior walls are acceptable. The entry may be mounted on an unscenicked base for support as required.

11. **Displays** –An entry which may, at the modeler's option, include structures and/or rolling stock plus scenery of any type required to create the desired scene. It typically includes, but is not limited to, one or more structures plus the surrounding scenery.

12. **Favorite Complete Train** (Popular vote) – Due to the mixture of model types and motive power, this is a non-judged category. A plaque and ribbon will be awarded for the train receiving the most votes from the convention attendees. All attendees are eligible to vote. Ribbons will be awarded for Second (2nd) and Third (3rd) place from the popular vote. The Host Convention Committee shall insert ballots into all registrants' packets. The train is to be displayed only on the tabletop or on unmodified commercial track that has no scenery or base.

Category Selection
If a model can be entered into more than one category, the modeler shall select the category in which it is to be placed before viewing other contest entries. Once entered, the category cannot be changed, with the following exception: If the Region Contest Chairman disagrees with the choice he may consult with the modeler to explain why he feels it should be moved to a different category. Nevertheless, the final decision, which must be made before judging, belongs to the modeler.

C. Awards

1. Plaque and ribbons will be awarded for all First (1st) place models. Ribbons will be awarded for Second (2nd), and Third (3rd) place finishers. Honorable Mention Ribbons will be awarded to all models receiving a Merit Award (87.5 points minimum) from the contest judges.

Special Awards

Most Popular (Popular vote) – It will be awarded to the model receiving the most votes from the convention attendees. All attendees are eligible to vote. The Host Convention Committee shall insert ballots into all registrants' packets. Judges' scores are not taken into consideration for this award. Popular voting period shall end when judging begins.

Best In Show – Highest point scoring model in any judged category in the Model Contest. It must receive at least 87.5 (Merit) points.

Participation Award – The contestant who receives the greatest number of combined points from multiple entries in the Model Contest. Only models scoring 87.5 (Merit) points or more will be included.

Best Kit Built Model – Highest scoring model created from a kit or a modified kit. The award is based on the total number of points, less the scratchbuilding points. This award will not be presented if no model qualifies.

Architecture Award – Best example of architectural design in a prototype or freelanced structure or bridge. The recipient of this award is selected by the Region Contest Chairman, if he deems a qualified model is in the contest. All entries may be considered, but a freelanced model shall be given higher consideration; the modeler has designed it, as opposed to copying someone else's prototype.

Tree Award – The best tree entry. The recipient of this award is selected by the Region Contest Chairman and is presented only if an outstanding tree is entered. The tree may be part of another entry, or entered on its own.

Youth/Teen Award – To help promote the hobby and the Region Model Contest and to include young people. Anyone in the age groups specified may enter. These awards will only be presented if a qualified entry is in the contest.

Youth – Open to all youths 12 years of age and under.

Teen – For entrants who are 13-17 years of age.

Novice Best of Show – Highest point scoring model by a modeler that has never placed with a First (1st) or Second (2nd) in any LSR (Region level) or NMRA (National level) Contest. Entry must receive at least 87.5 (Merit) points.

A "Novice" box is in the upper left corner of the LSR model building entry form; please mark it appropriately to indicate if you are eligible. Award can only be won once by an entrant.

Bob Clarke Award – Award is presented to the entry that best depicts Logging or Backwoods modeling. Entry can be prototype or freelance model. This entry is chosen by the Region Contest Chairman in conjunction with the award sponsor (S AMRA), and can be chosen from any contest model category. If no suitable models fit these criteria the award will not be given.

Linda S. **Little Award** – This award will be presented to the highest scoring entry *in the Model Contest only*, submitted by a woman modeler who has not previously scored higher than 87.5 points. If there are no qualifying entries, no award will be given that year. Sponser - Bay Area Railroading Fellowship

D. Judging

Most judging categories have aspects of both difficulty and quality. Scores go up as the modeler attempts more difficult modeling projects and methods. Scores also go up as the modeler is more successful with the chosen project and methods.

1. Judging will take place using the NMRA scoring system.

2. The main guideline should be the Judges Score Sheet for NMRA Model Contest. Judge what you see as well as what you read since some entrants are better modelers than writers.

3. If the entrant provides additional material such as photos, plans, etc. or other documentation, look it over for prototype or model information that will help you judge the model. Judges are not obligated to consider this material, but it can be important in understanding how the model was built and any special techniques that may have been developed during construction. It can be helpful to study the models and their descriptions prior to the judging period to familiarize yourself with them, thus saving time during judging.

4. Judge the model, not the modeler. You may know or guess who built the model and think the modeler was capable of better, but you must judge only what is before you.

5. Judges will be divided into teams, with each team assigned to judge one category (Construction, Detail, Conformity, Finish & Lettering or Scratchbuilding) and across all classes (Locomotives, Cars, Structures, etc.). Each judging team will have a senior (or lead) judge.

6. Each member of the judging team will study the model and write a preliminary score on a scratch paper. The

team will then compare and review these scores. If there are differences, discuss why each judge thinks the way they do before averaging or otherwise agreeing on a score. The senior judge of a category has the final say as to what the score will be. If a junior judge feels that the senior judge is not doing his job correctly, the junior judge can and should go to the Region Contest Chairman to voice any concerns.

7. Use a PENCIL ONLY when writing on the Judges Score Sheet, as the Region Contest Chairman has the right to review and modify scores if he deems necessary. The senior judge will transfer the score to the entry form in pencil.

8. You will not be eligible to judge in the contest if you have entries in more than two (2) categories. When you get to the category where you have models entered, you must leave the area. No less than two (2) judges will judge a category. If an alternate judge is needed please contact the Region Contest Chairman. When it is the senior judge that is affected, the Region Contest Chairman, with help from the senior judge, may review the scores in that category to ensure that the scoring has been consistent with the other categories previously judged.

9. When judges pick up a model for closer examination in the following categories; Steam, Diesel, Traction and Other, Freight Cars, Maintenance of Way, Passenger Cars and Cabooses, they MUST wear gloves if the modeler requests that this be done. All judges will ensure their hands are clean and dry before judging to prevent leaving fingerprints on a model. This will be done out of respect for the modeler.

10. The Regional Contest Chairman will determine who is allowed to be in the contest room during judging.

11. When the team completes judging all team members except the *senior* judge are excused from their duties and must leave the room unless otherwise asked to stay by the Regional Contest Chairman. The senior judge will review scores if necessary with the Region Contest Chairman before being excused.

These rules were addopted at the January 2010 Board meeting in San Antonio. According to the By-laws any changes must be printed in the Marker Lamp at least 6 months before they can be used. They will be the rules used for the LSR Contest in 2011.

They will also be posted on the LSR web site. Any question should be directed to the LSR Contest Chairman, Duane Richardson

Lone Star Region election results

Director-at-Large
Chuck Lind
Tracy Mitchell
Duane Richardson

Division 2 Director
Dick Scheneider

Division 4 Director
Jack Merkel

Division 6 Director
Thomas Crosthwait

Divivision 8 Director
Ray Byer

Gary McMills Nominations Chair

Pass Exchange

There seems to be in interest in the Lone Star Region to bring the Pass Exchange program back to life. Walter Zahn has decided to work on renewing interest in this program. If you are interested in participating please send him 2 or 3 samples of your pass and in return you will get a pass and a Pass Exchange list of others in the program. Walter will review the passes and send me a pass of the quarter that I will publish in the *Marker Lamp*.

Please help Walter get this program moving again. Send you passes to:

Walter Zahn
3309 Point East Drive
Mesquite, Texas 75150

Cowcatcher Division 1

by Chris Atkins

It's been a busy first quarter of 2010, starting with a very successful Plano Train Show in January. Through the hard work of Membership Chair Larry Swigert, Divisions 3 and 1 recruited 31 new members at the show, setting a national record! Besides being an excellent opportunity to reach out to new modelers, the success of the Plano Show goes a long way to fund Division 1 activities. You can get the latest information about the Ft. Worth and Plano train shows at http://facebook.com/dfwtrainshows.

The board of directors meeting in San Antonio provided all the board members an opportunity to see the 2010 convention hotel. I hope you all have registered to attend the San Antonio convention this June. The Alamo Rails convention promises to be one of the best to date. Some of the highlights include several prototype tours and an afternoon of live steam.

In March, we had a division meeting at the LMRA club. Darrell Cowles presented the first half of his Ft. Worth Railroad History clinic. Darrell packed his presentation full of photos of Ft. Worth in its early days: too many to fit into one meeting. We also judged the last two of Bob Mangrum's freight cars, which I am happy to report he merited. These two cars completed his requirements for the Freight Car AP certificate. Only one more (volunteer) and Bob will become the LSR's next MMR. Congratulations Bob!

This spring, several Division 1 members carpooled to the 2010 Hograils weekend in Bella Vista, AR. Speaking of operating weekends, this November the DFW Interchange operating weekend comes back to the Metroplex. I hope to get several more Ft. Worth area layouts on board this year. If you have a layout, and would like to get it operating in order to participate in the DFW Interchange, please contact me, and I'll help you get aboard.

The next Division meeting will be May 8, 2010 at the Texas Western Club, 6807 Anglin Drive, Ft. Worth. Darrell Cowles will present the second half of his excellent clinic on Ft. Worth railroad history. I hope to see you all at the next meeting. If you have any questions or suggestions, you can contact me at chris@railroadmodelers.com. More information can be found at http://cowcatcherdivision.com

www.alamorails.com

Bayou Division 2

by Dick Schneider

Darn, but time flies when you're havin' fun, and this past quarter has just flown by. I accomplished only half of what I needed to, but did twice as much as I expected and had a great time doin' it.

Jim Lofland, creator of the Tall Timbers & Santa Fe, has initiated a new concept in Baton Rouge. Jim invites, via e-mail, all the local model railroaders, regardless of scale, to meet with him every Saturday morning at 8:00am, at "Franks" restaurant on Airline Highway just North of Cortana Mall. After breakfast Jim usually invites everyone over to his layout for an "operating session". Jim and I have discussed extending his invitation for breakfast to include any model railroaders currently residing in Bayou Division II. If you are interested in attending, contact Jim at jlof811@aol.com

Several Bayou Division 2 members, lead by Jim Lofland, headed off to Bentonville, Arkansas to visit and operate with the HOGS. The weekend was great and all members had a great time. They stopped by to check out the progress of Dr. Kamm in Shreveport. The good Dr. is converting his huge layout to DCC. His progress has been great but still has a way to go.

I have been hearing nothing but praise for Art Houston's layout. Remember Art? We discussed him several issues back and commented about how he had a dream set up. Art is fully retired, economically stable, and has a fully climatized, huge, brand new building to start his "Dream railroad". He's going at full speed. He seems to be putting in a 40-60 hour week on his layout and the results are very visible. I will be visiting Art later this month to bring an update to you. I will also try to meet with Walter Rieger and Lou Schultz and see how their modeling has progressed.

Many of us have played the "Woe is me" blues as a cover for not having had any membership increase in our club and/or LSR Divisions. Not so for this Division. The MidSouth Model RR Club brought in two new members this last month, Leo Persick and Rex Theile. That's two more for Lone Star.

MidSouth Model RR Club of Baton Rouge took the opportunity to enroll both Leo Persick and Rex Theile into the MidSouth membership. MidSouth is continuing its first Saturday of the even months as operating sessions. Don't wait till the last minute to apply for a spot as an operator as they go pretty fast. Give Jack Green an email at JWG3RD@aol.com early on for the operating days of 6/12 and 8/07.

Bayou Division II wishes to express our concerns to Gil Freitag and his family. We have all heard about his medical situation and want him to know that our prayers are with him in his struggle. Please let us know if there is anything we can do. Well, it's been a great quarter and until next time, we have a saying in the better half of Louisiana – "Laissez les bon ton rouler!" – "Let the good times roll!"

North East Texas Division 3

by Jerry Hoverson, MMR

Well, Spring has sprung (about time too) and the 2010 "Alamo Rails" convention is just around the corner. Hope you're planning on attending, it should be a great time for all with plenty of informative clinics and as always the opportunity to rub elbows with many of your friends that you might not have seen since last year's convention.

Division 3 has kept busy as usual with our monthly meetings at the Nicholson Memorial Library, 625 Austin Street, downtown Garland where we meet on the third Saturday of every month at 10:15. Speaking of our meetings, I send out reminders with the upcoming agenda a week prior to the meeting via email. If you are not getting this email notification I don't have your current email address. Please send your information to me at jhoverson@tx.rr.com so I can include you and you can join us for all the fun! Here's what we've been up to since the last report.

January – Did not hold a meeting due to a conflict with the Plano Train Show. However, Division 3 was out in force at the show and signed up 31 new NMRA members from our booth. That's right 31! Larry Swigert, your regional membership chairman, came through AGAIN! Under his guidance we put together and trained a team that present the NMRA properly to show attendees and the results speak for themselves. Thank you Larry!

February – This meeting was primarily focused on those new members from the Plano Show. This was a "meet and greet" where we welcomed the new members into the NMRA. As part of it we held a panel discussion covering most of the topics these folks were interested in and tried our best to answer all their questions. A very informative meeting.

March – With spring just around the corner we turned our attention back to scenery and enjoyed a clinic presented by our own Mike Jobe where he showed us how to build our own static grass applicator he called the "Grassilla". The best part is that this model only cost $30 instead of the $200 for the Noch version in Walthers. I then presented a "Operations Primer" clinic introducing Model Railroad Operations in preparation for the April meeting.

April – In April we diverted from the normal clinic presentations and went on a road trip for some hands on training. We met at the DART station next to the Library and rode the DART to downtown Dallas where we walked over to the South Side Model Railroaders club for an operating session. We paired up an experienced operator with a new operator in a 2-man crew concept and gave some one-on-one operations training. What a blast and I think we've got a few new operations enthusiasts. The day then ended with a DART ride back to Garland. A whole day of trains, you can't beat that!

As you can see Division 3 is doing lots of activities and in the coming months we plan on continuing doing even more. From our helpful clinics to starting work on another achievement to having another mini-layout tour there's always a good time.

May – We will be getting a lesson on how to use DecoderPro to program your DCC decoders and will also take a look at PanelPro for controlling your railroad from the computer and dispatching during operating sessions.

June & July – We'll start on another achievement and dive into kitbashing a structure. This will be a hands on event so you'll be able to get a merit award and place it on your layout.

August – It will be about time to do another mini-layout tour by the time August rolls around so if you wouldn't mind showing your layout and earn some volunteer points at the same time, let me know and we'll get you scheduled.

So if you're in Division 3 or any other division and just want to join in, we're looking at an exciting year coming up with lots and lots of fun railroad things to do.

If you would like to see a clinic on a given subject or would be willing to present a clinic at one of the meetings contact me or Mike Jobe, the Division 3 clinic coordinator with your ideas.

I'm still looking for a few volunteers to perform some division tasks and earn point towards the "Volunteer" achievement. If you'd like to get started on the achievement or are just willing to lend a hand, please contact me via email. I need the help!

Take care all and get working on your latest project but most of all get involved with the division and have some railroading FUN!

See you at "Alamo Rails".

Cen-Tex Division 4

by Bill Dryden, Jr.

No report received

Division 5

by Dave Lamberts

The contract with the convention hotel has been signed. The room rate will be $82.00/night. This is the same hotel we used last time the LSR convention was held in Lubbock (2003).

My partner Liz has volunteered to head up the non-rail committee and she already has a robust social calendar planed including wine tasting, a tour of the windmill museum, beading classes, blanket making, etc. There will be more non-rail activities at this convention than we are used to seeing.

This weekend in the Lubbock Arts Festival. Our local club is always asked to set up our modules and club pike and this year is no exception. The room is huge, and we can display all the clubs' goodies.

Division 6

by Fred Bock, MMR

I doubt that WWII theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a railfan but . . . "In the dark days of Nazi control of the German church in the 1930s, someone suggested to the young pastor Bonhoeffer that he could continue to do much good from within the false church. He retorted, "If you board the wrong train, it's no use running along the corridor in the opposite direction."

"Sometimes we need to get off the train altogether." (Renate Wind, quoted by Deborah Smith Douglas, Weavings, Vol. XXV No. 3 (April 2010)).

I've reached the end of my second four year journey as your Director, Division 6 (South Texas). In many ways, it's been an honor and a pleasure serving you in that role. And make no mistake: the essential characteristic of the position, IMHO, is one of service. Or, as some phrase it, "servant leadership." Serving the hobby, the NMRA membership, and the NMRA. The list of rewards (and a few disappointments) could go on at length . . . but, it's time for me to get off the train. Lately, I've found I've gotten a great deal more satisfaction from working one-on-one with those trying to learn or improve their skills and enjoyment in model railroading, whether a raw beginner or a journeyman practitioner working within the NMRA Achievement Program.

Two members recently ran for election for the position of Director, Division 6. As of this writing the results aren't final. Whomever you elected: if there are meaningful programs they intend to carry out during their term, then they will be glad of your volunteering to help them lead or carry out those programs. This Division has never needed a large "political infrastructure". We have no treasury, no fund raisers, no dues, no division newsletter, no meetings, and no minutes. All of the "traditional" NMRA division activities found in many other divisions throughout the country (not all) are conducted in this geographical area by clubs and other organizations. If you want train shows, clinics, meetings, operations, "politics", socialization, layout visits . . . these are already available in one form or another. I've never had anyone approach me and say "we need more _ _ _ _". So, I spent efforts concentrating on services that are NOT provided by local clubs or activities. In the process, I've journeyed as far as Indiana, Illinois, Great Britain, California, Mexico, Australia, Corpus, and "the Valley", either in person or via Internet. And become friends with some great folks.

When it comes to the Lone Star Region and Division 6, "Don't just belong . . . participate." (Past President Larry Redmond). If there IS something you want from your NMRA that you're not getting, then ask. And if you don't ask for anything, then don't be surprised if you get what you asked for. Time to get off, Swap my laptop for my toolbox. Happy railroadin'!

Division 7

by Don Kimmell

Hello from colorful North Louisiana-I wonder if anyone has ever tried to model this part of the country at this time of the year…It surely would be a challenge what with all the colors! On to business.

The annual JETTS Longview Train Show was another success according to Homer and everyone else that I talked to, despite the SNOW! Yes it did snow a bit that weekend, didn't stick, wasn't slippery but had everyone talking..Snow in Texas in March no less! Everyone also had a great time, including the Vendors.

By the time you read this, the Tyler Tap, Cotton Belt Historical Society's Train Show will be history, sorry if you missed it, because it is a fun show. More in my next report.

Had a nice visit with the folks from Alexandria. Their Children Museum "Junior Engineer" program is moving along fine, recruiting some new blood for the hobby. Lou notified a number of us about a wonderful LPBS (Public Television) special on trains-a bit about Longleaf, #645 restoration efforts and a nice live steam club down south, very enjoyable.

As to upcoming events, by the time you get this we should be just about ready for this year's convention in San Antonio, I hope to see you there! For anyone planning on attending this years National Convention-in Milwaukee—it is our 75th!- when you attend the Train Show, look for me, our club, "ArkLaTex Modular Train Club" has been invited to display—along with it looks like 25 or 30+ other clubs! It should be fun, a bit of a drive, but until you have attended a "National", you don't really know what your are missing. Hope to see you there, and also in San Antonio!

Texas Gulf Division 8

by Ray Byer

Here in Division 8, the weather is starting to warm up and UP 844 has come and gone.

Division 8 started this year's events with a chili cook-off in Alvin, Texas at the old Santa Fe train station. Later in the month we will be kicking off the monthly clinics at the Houston Railway Museum.

I would like to thank the members of Division 8 for reelecting me to office again as you Division 8 Director.

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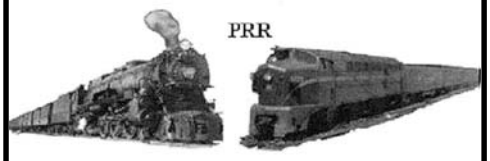
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